

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, please insert the paragraph:

-- This application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/370,571, filed January 18, 1995, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 08/184,377, filed January 21, 1994. --.

Page 14, line 19, after "action" please insert --, hereinafter sometimes referred to as "dry shredding", --.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

1. A [In a] process making an absorbent article, said process [for improving the characteristics of a pulp useful for making a fluff pulp or a pulp for absorbency intensive applications the improvement] comprising:  
treating a pulp at a temperature of up to about 60°C, in a suspension, with an alkali solution of a concentration from about 2% to about 25% by weight, for a treatment time sufficient to obtain a pulp of improved absorbency characteristics containing pulp fibers, and recovering and drying said thus treated pulp from said suspension [suitable for intensive absorbency and fluff pulp use applications];  
providing at least one fluid permeable topsheet;  
fluffing the dried pulp to form a fluffed pulp; and  
forming an absorbent article having said fluffed pulp therein and applying said fluid permeable topsheet thereto.